



## FAO's ROLE IN THE REGIONAL FLASH APPEAL FOR THE LIBYAN CRISIS 2011

Launch date:  
7 March 2011

### Background

On 16 February 2011, anti-Government protests began in Libya and have since escalated into a widespread uprising across the country.

As a result of the violence, it is estimated that approximately 200 000 people, mostly migrant workers, have fled the country, primarily to Tunisia and Egypt. This number is expected to double as fighting continues. Although there have been no independent and verifiable figures, the number of people reported to have been killed or wounded range from hundreds to thousands.

To date, the international response has been limited in Libya, especially in the west of the country as a result of insecurity. The Regional Flash Appeal for the Libyan Crisis 2011 was launched in Geneva on 7 March 2011 and seeks a total of USD 160 million to respond to the humanitarian needs of those who have fled Libya as well as vulnerable populations within the country over a three-month timeframe. A revised Appeal is planned to be issued in the coming weeks.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will serve as co-lead agency for food security along with the World Food Programme (WFP). The sector objectives are to: (i) save lives and reduce food insecurity; (ii) restore the livelihoods of vulnerable conflict-affected populations, including those in host communities; and (iii) establish immediate capacity for effective, up-to-date information on food security needs and gaps.

### Challenges facing food security

Libya imports approximately 80 percent of its cereal requirements, which renders its poor populations particularly vulnerable to food price volatility. Food price increases have directly contributed to political unrest throughout the region. In addition, the Libyan economy is heavily dependent on oil revenues.

National crop production is concentrated in the Jebel Akhdar region near Benghazi and the Jifarah Plain near Tripoli. Continued violence and political instability are expected to severely affect food production, imports and distribution.

Furthermore, major risks have been identified with regard to the outbreak of animal disease and a disruption to the animal feed supply system, which has already been stressed by ongoing drought.

There is currently no systematic, up-to-date and dynamic system for food security information, analysis and monitoring. Identifying immediate food security needs and gaps are, thus, difficult and must be given greater priority in order to formulate more appropriate and effective response plans.



UN Photo/UNHCR/A. Duclos

Thousands gather at the Tunisian border to escape insecurity in Libya.

Therefore, there is an urgent need for a series of rapid needs assessments concerning food assistance, cash and vouchers, agricultural production inputs, protection and the restoration of agriculture-based livelihoods. There is also a need for a functional food security early warning system that would monitor and map the supply of select food commodities, livestock feed and animal health products.



### FAO response

Within the framework of the Regional Flash Appeal for the Libyan Crisis 2011, FAO, as part of the food security cluster, has requested **USD 2.65 million** to restore agriculture-based livelihoods in Libya and crisis-affected populations of Egypt, the Niger and Tunisia. At the same time, FAO will enhance programming and coordination of food security interventions in these areas.

#### FAO's emergency response activities aim to:

- **support vegetable production** through the distribution of a variety of domestic seeds and compound fertilizer;
- **protect livestock assets** through the provision of inputs and animal health services;
- **assess the full scale and impact** of the conflict on food security in consultation with cluster counterparts so as to adapt humanitarian response activities to the most urgent needs and achieve sustainable outcomes; and
- **provide coordination and leadership** in programme design, strategy development, information management and advocacy to partners in the food security sector.



# FAO's COMPONENT OF THE REGIONAL FLASH APPEAL FOR THE LIBYAN CRISIS 2011

**Total funding requirements: USD 2.65 million**

Food production and livelihoods	<b>Project title: Emergency support to vegetable production in coastal and urban/peri-urban areas</b>	
	<b>Objective:</b> to increase nutritional security, reduce local vegetable prices and support the livelihoods of crisis-affected households in Libya, Egypt, the Niger and Tunisia by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>distributing seed kits consisting of tomato, onion, eggplant, cucumber, green pea and watermelon seeds to the most vulnerable and marginalized households in crisis-affected areas, sufficient for the cultivation of approximately 1 000 m<sup>2</sup> per household; and</li> <li>providing related compound fertilizers when necessary.</li> </ul>	<b>Beneficiaries</b> 25 000 households in peri-urban areas of the Libyan coastal belt and up to 10 000 host families in the Niger, Tunisia and Egypt. An additional 5 000 kits will serve as buffer stock to respond to possible seed and fertilizer shortages.  <b>Implementing partners:</b> International and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs).  <b>Funds requested: USD 1 560 000</b>
	<b>Project title: Emergency support to the protection of livestock assets</b>	
	<b>Objective:</b> to support the livelihoods and improve the food security of vulnerable livestock owners by protecting livestock assets and maintaining productivity by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>conducting a rapid appraisal and needs assessment of the livestock and animal health situation in the region;</li> <li>providing livestock inputs when necessary; and</li> <li>creating a contingency plan for the control of contagious animal disease outbreak.</li> </ul>	<b>Beneficiaries</b> 80 000 direct and indirect beneficiary households in Libya.  <b>Implementing partners:</b> local veterinary services, WFP, the Mediterranean Network for Animal Health and the International Medical Corps.  <b>Funds requested: USD 500 000</b>
Coordination and assessments	<b>Project title: Effective coordination and leadership of food security sector responses (FAO-WFP)</b>	
	<b>Objective:</b> to provide effective coordination and leadership to the food security sector by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>providing support for needs assessments and analysis, strategy development, programme design, information management and advocacy; and</li> <li>ensuring intersectoral coordination, in close collaboration with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other Sector leads.</li> </ul>	<b>Beneficiaries:</b> food security sector partners.  <b>Implementing partners:</b> International and national NGOs, Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, United Nations (UN) agencies and relevant government institutions.  <b>Funds requested: USD 115 000*</b>  <small>*FAO component: USD 115 000. WFP component: USD 115 000.</small>
	<b>Project title: Food security information collection, analysis, dissemination and early warning (FAO-WFP)</b>	
	<b>Objective:</b> to provide in-depth and up-to-date food security information for developing coordinated, well-targeted and evidence-based responses by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>building a network of key informants to map food insecurity and document problems;</li> <li>monitoring transboundary animal diseases and pests, as well as the domestic supply of and economic access to staple crops, fresh/nutritious foods and animal feed; and</li> <li>providing timely and updated policy recommendations to national and international agencies responding to the crisis.</li> </ul>	<b>Beneficiaries:</b> Government counterparts and humanitarian agencies in the affected countries.  <b>Implementing partners:</b> WFP, national and international NGOs, UN agencies and relevant government institutions.  <b>Funds requested: USD 475 000**</b>  <small>**FAO component: USD 475 000. WFP component: USD 255 000.</small>



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